

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BLANTY 00165 050744Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 /010 W

----- 032516

P 041130Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7736

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 0165

PRETORIA FOR KRYZA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, MI

SUBJ: CHANCERY SITE IN LILONGWE

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO LILONGWE, AF/EX DIRECTOR KRYZA VOICED CONCERN, STEMMING FROM EXPERIENCE IN CERTAIN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, ABOUT PROXIMITY OF CHANCERY SITE TO MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY (MCP) HEADQUARTERS, FEELING THAT IN MINDS OF SOME PEOPLE THIS FACT MIGHT SUGGEST U.S. SUPPORT FOR AND IDENTIFICATION WITH MCP, AND IN MINDS OTHERS MIGHT AROUSE SUSPICION OF SURVEILLANCE MCP COMINGS AND GOINGS. PRESENT SITE FACES SIDE OF 15.86 ACRE MCP SITE, BUT CHANCERY ENTRANCE IS LOCATED ABOUT 900 FEET AWAY ON DIFFERENT STREET FROM MCP ENTRANCE. THIS SITE WAS CHOSEN IN EARLY 1972 BY FORMER AMB BURDETT IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL ARCHITECT. SITE SELECTION AT THAT TIME WAS BASED LARGELY ON ARCHITECTURAL DESIRABILITY THIS PLOT AS COMPARED TO OTHER CHANCERY PLOTS STILL AVAILABLE AND POST BELIEVES PRESENT SITE IS STILL BEST SITE FROM ARCHITECTURAL POINT OF VIEW OF ALL REMAINING PLOTS.

2. AT PRESENT TIME ONLY SIX PLOTS REMAIN AVAILABLE FROM THE FOURTEEN PLOTS SET ASIDE FOR CHANCERY CONSTRUCTION AND ALL ARE SMALLER THAN PRESENT 1.4 ACRE SITE. ONE OF THESE SITES IS LOCATED EVEN CLOSER TO THE MCP ENTRANCE THAN OUR PRESENT SITE. THREE OF THE REMAINING FIVE PLOTS ARE DEEMED UNDESIRABLE BY THE LOCAL ARCHITECT EITHER BECAUSE OF ACCESS PROBLEMS OR STEEP GRADES. OF THE REMAINING TWO PLOTS ONE WOULD PLACE THE CHANCERY ON THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BLANTY 00165 050744Z

SAME STREET AS THE MCP ENTRANCE, BUT ABOUT 1,450 FEET AWAY;

THE OTHER WOULD PLACE THE CHANCERY ON THE SAME SIDE WITH RELATION TO THE MCP ENTRANCE AS OUR PRESENT SITE, BUT A FURTHER 550 FEET AWAY FROM THE MCP SITE. BOTH SITES HAVE DISADVANTAGE OF BEING ON-THIRD ACRE LESS THAN PRESENT CHANCERY SITE, AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE REARRANGING OF WAREHOUSE, AND PARKING AREAS AND OTHER ALTERATIONS TO CHANCERY TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENT SUN ANGLES.

3. POST BELIEVES THAT WHEN LANDSCAPING OF BOTH MCP HEADQUARTERS AND US CHANCERY ARE COMPLETED, APPARENT VISUAL PROIMITY OF TWO SITES WILL BE CONSIDERABLY DIMINISHED. CHANGING SITE LOCATION AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD RESULT IN DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION START BECAUSE OF NEED TO RENEGOTIATE SITE WITH CAPITAL CITY DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND REDRAW PLANS FOR WHAT AT BEST WOULD ONLY BE SMALL ADDITIONAL SEPARATION BETWEEN CHANCERY AND MCP HEADQUARTERS. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT MOST OTHER CHANCERIES WILL BE LOCATED IN SAME GENERAL AREA, NOT QUITE AS CLOSE AS OURSELVES TO MCP HEADQUARTERS, BUT NOT FAR AWAY EITHER.

4. UNLESS BUREAU PERCEIVES SERIOUS OBJECTION POST RECOMMENDS THAT PRESENT SITE BE RETAINED.

STEVENSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BLANTY00165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-0814
From: BLANTYRE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750276/aaaacpxj.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANCERY SITE IN LILONGWE
TAGS: ABLD, MI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006